

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/826,062	DRUMMOND, DONALD KENDALL
Examiner	Art Unit
José A. Fortuna	1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendemnt Filed on 2/22/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,17-20,22 and 23.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael J. Herman on September 27, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

TITLE

The title has been changed to --Acid Stabilized Calcium Carbonate and Method of Making it—

SPECIFICATION

In page 1, line 1 of the specification, the following has been added:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS—

--This application is a divisional application of 08/774,662 filed on 12/30/1996, now US Patent No. 6,228,161—

CLAIMS

In claim 1, line 1, "current amendment" has been changed to --currently amended--.

Claims 2-16, 21 and 24 have been cancelled.

Claim 22 (currently amended) A method for making an acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry having a pH of less than 7, which comprises: forming a slurry consisting

essentially of water, calcium carbonate, and a acid-stabilizer selected from a group consisting of a water soluble salt, a weak acid, a chelating agent, wherein the water soluble calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, calcium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium nitrate and calcium citrate, and, wherein the stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to provide an aqueous calcium carbonate slurry having an increased calcium ion concentration and a pH of less than 7.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The method of Claim 22, further comprising wherein the calcium carbonate is obtained by first carbonating an aqueous slurry of calcium hydroxide to form a precipitated calcium carbonate slurry.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach nor suggest a calcium carbonate stabilized with the claimed compounds. Note that the independent claims, claims 1 and 22, are close ended with regard to the acid stabilizers and the water-soluble salts, i.e., the acid stabilizers and water-soluble salts are claimed with the transitional phrase "consisting of." See also applicants remarks filed on February 22, 2005 and the Examiner's interview summary record of July 10, 2003.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José A. Fortuna whose telephone number is 571-272-1188. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

Art Unit: 1731

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


José A. Fortuna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

JAF